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BEATING PAYETTE

Minister assures protection for non-francophone media

P.A. Sévigny

sevigny@themetropolitain.ca



During an official government consultation which took place in the Théâtre Rouge located in Montreal's Conservatoire D'Art Dramatique, Quebec's Minister of Culture and Communications stated that there would be "no mandatory French language tests," for Quebec's ethnic and Anglophone media.

Ministre Christine St-Pierre is presently leading a province-wide consultation which is examining assorted issues related to Quebec's media following the release of what has come to be known as the Payette Report.

Her assurance came in response to concerns voiced by Suburban publisher Michael Sochaczewski and Editor Beryl Wajzman, also publisher of The Métropolitain, in their presentation. "We have no intention of imposing French language tests on the province's English or ethnic media, or affecting any of its rights and viability, and I would ask you to disseminate that message," she said. "We do, however, want to improve the French used in Quebec's French-speaking media," she added.

Some 10 minutes into the presentation by Sochaczewski and Wajzman, who were not only representing The Suburban and The Métropolitain but also the 31-member Quebec Community Newspaper Association (QCNA), and were carrying a letter of support from the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), the minister understood that there was substantial opposition to the Payette Report and its assorted proposals.

Following a brief yet inspired defense of every Canadian citizen's rights and freedoms among which Wajzman included "the citizen's inalienable right to a free battleground of ideas unfettered by the heavy hand of the state" as the backbone of a strong democracy, it took Wajzman only a few minutes to follow up with a convincing argument as to why the government had no business using its powerful bureaucracy to police what is

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Payette: A community protected, a battle won but the campaign continues

Beryl Wajzman

Editeur et Rédacteur en chef

wajzman@themetropolitain.ca



We have to give credit where credit is due. When The Suburban's publisher Michael Sochaczewski and I testified in front of Culture Minister Christine St-Pierre, and her commissioners, hearing testimony on the Payette Report that seeks to institute journalistic accreditation creating two classes of writers, we came with a long list of concerns. Not only those of The Suburban and The Métropolitain but also those of the 31 member Quebec Community Newspaper Association whom we represented.

One of the most important was the Payette recommendation that all accredited journalists do a "formation" in the French language every year. Payette drew no distinction between francophone and non-francophone journalists. This would have posed a threat to all non-francophone media.

After some heated exchanges, the Minister finally clearly and candidly gave assurance that nothing in Payette relating to language would touch the non-francophone media and that she, and the government, were committed to its growth and viability. And she asked that we disseminate the message. She should be thanked for her forthrightness. This particular issue was also of grave concern to the Quebec Community Groups Network who had

written a letter in support of our position which was presented to the Commission. We obtained a vital commitment that protects Anglophone and ethnic media on this island which is more than fifty per cent non-francophone. But other issues were presented, noted, but remain unresolved.

First among them is the illegitimacy of the state taking any hand in determining who is a journalist. It would put Quebec in the company of Cuba, Zimbabwe, North Korea, India and China. The press, since the French revolution, has been the fourth estate of government. For politicians to allow bureaucrats to determine who is "accredited", is the same as allowing them to determine who may stand for public office. A free society cannot have two levels of

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Ensemble et Libres ~ Together and Free

Édifice Hermès, Tour A, Suite 155, 1470 rue Peel,
Montréal, QC, Canada, H3A 1T1

Tel: 514-759-8541

Fax: 514-759-8544

e-mail: info@themetropolitain.ca

Rédacteur en chef et Éditeur
Beryl P. Wajzman

Senior Editor
Alan Hustak

Contributing Editor
Brigitte B. Garceau

Managing Editor
Dan Delmar

Rédacteur-adjoint principal
Daniel Laprès

Coordonnateur, Affaires internationales
Leonard Dykler (Paris)

Copy & Translations
Mike Medeiros

Photojournaliste
Robert J. Galbraith

Editorial Artwork
Roy Piperberg, Melissa K. Wheeler

Ventes et Marketing
Genevieve Maclean, Joseph Mardini

IT Director
Valeri Prudnikov

Webmestre
François Charbonneau

Editorial staff

*Alidor Aucoin, Louise Labrecque, Pierre K. Malouf,
Robert Presser, P.A. Sévigny, Sharman Yarnell, Robert Elman,
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Strategic Counsel

Charles S. Coffey

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submissions@themetropolitain.ca

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Pierre K. Malouf

« Brasse-camarade »

malouf@themetropolitain.ca

Ex-dramaturge, romancier persévérant, essayiste et poète à ses heures, Pierre K. Malouf fréquente des fédéralistes et des indépendantistes, des gens de gauche et des gens de droite, des jeunes et des vieux, des écrivains et des ingénieurs. Gentil comme tout, il ne dit pas toujours tout ce qu'il pense, mais pense toujours ce qu'il écrit.

LA PATRIE

LA CAMPAGNE BDS À MONTRÉAL

Les troubles continuent sur la rue Saint-Denis. Qui y mettra fin ?

Il y a eu un an le 2 octobre qu'un marchand de chaussures de la rue Saint-Denis, Yves Archambault, a reçu une mise en demeure d'un organisme appelé Palestiniens et Juifs Unis (PAJU) lui enjoignant de retirer de ses tablettes les souliers BeautiFeel, fabriqués en Israël. Bien que cette marque ne représente que deux pour cent de son chiffre d'affaire, le propriétaire du Marcheur considéra avec raison qu'il était libre de mener ses affaires à sa guise et refusa d'obtempérer. Le jour même, une douzaine de manifestants se massèrent devant sa boutique avec pancartes et banderoles et distribuèrent aux passants de tracts qui dénonçaient la prétendue complicité du Marcheur avec le soi-disant apartheid israélien.

La thèse soutenue par PAJU et par Amir Khadir à l'appui de cette action de boycottage des produits israéliens, c'est qu'Israël est un État qui pratique l'apartheid, idée héritée directement de la fameuse résolution 3379, votée à l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies en novembre 1975 par le Bloc soviétique et les pays arabes et/ou musulmans, résolution qui définissait le sionisme comme une forme de racisme et de discrimination raciale. Cette résolution a été abrogée en 1991, mais les antisionistes radicaux, ceux du Québec comme d'ailleurs dans le monde, n'ont pas renoncé au message qu'elle portait, comme on l'a vu à Durban en 2001.

Mais que vient faire dans cette histoire un simple petit commerçant de la rue Saint-Denis ? La réponse est simple : il est victime de l'impuissance des antisionistes québécois, qui n'ont trouvé comme moyen d'appliquer chez nous la campagne BDS (Boycott, Désinvestissement, Sanctions) lancée contre Israël en 2005, que de s'attaquer à un établissement qui ne fait pas partie d'une grande chaîne, et qui par conséquent n'a pas les moyens d'entamer des poursuites pour se défendre contre les fanatiques qui font pression sur sa clientèle pour qu'elle cesse d'acheter chez lui, ce qu'a fait le PAJU tous les samedis ou presque entre le 2 octobre 2010 et le 18 juin 2011, date après laquelle son action s'est concentrée

contre un autre magasin de chaussures situé un peu plus au sud toujours sur la rue Saint-Denis, Naot, qui ne vend que des souliers fabriqués en Israël.

De toute évidence, la population du Québec n'obéit pas au mot d'ordre des marginaux qui composent PAJU, ce qui n'empêche pas ces derniers de s'entêter dans leur vaine démarche et d'aller emmerder une fois par semaine un commerce de la rue Saint-Denis. Ils continuent de le faire au moment où j'écris ces lignes en allant piqueter devant le magasin Naot chaque samedi après-midi. Ils y rencontrent toutefois une forte opposition, puisqu'un groupe de citoyens contre-manifeste en même temps qu'eux pour dénoncer leur action, comme c'était le cas avant que PAJU ne renonce à intimider Le Marcheur.

Le premier moment fort de cette campagne de harcèlement eut lieu le 11 décembre 2010. Ce jour-là, Amir Khadir se joignit aux piqueteurs de PAJU. Sa présence fit alors grand bruit, vous vous en souvenez peut-être. Plusieurs journalistes et commentateurs condamnèrent son action et son discours. Lysianne Gagnon, de La Presse, intitula même l'une de ses chroniques, Khadir le fanatique.

Sa popularité auprès de Québécois risquant de chuter dramatiquement, Khadir se tint désormais loin de la boutique Le Marcheur, mais il poursuivit quand même sa campagne contre l'« apartheid israélien » par des voies détournées, dont la plus vile consista, le 15 mai, à haranguer une foule de quelque trois cent personnes réunies à la Place Gérard-Godin au métro Mont-Royal à l'occasion de ce que les Palestiniens et leurs amis appellent la journée de la NAQBA, la catastrophe. C'est-à-dire l'exode des populations arabes au moment de la fondation de l'État d'Israël. Cet exode, on s'en souvient, fut surtout provoqué par les pays arabes eux-mêmes, qui lançèrent contre Israël une guerre d'extermination en promettant aux populations arabes en fuite qu'elles pourraient bientôt rentrer chez elle. Tel n'est évidemment pas l'interprétation d'Amir

Khadir, qui déclara devant la foule réunie le 15 mai pour lancer une troisième intifada, qu'Israël avait inventé en 1947 et 1948 « le modèle de terrorisme appliqué aux populations civiles. » Textuel !

Cette foule « crinquée » par Khadir alla ensuite écouter une diatribe prononcée devant Le Marcheur par une des têtes dirigeantes du PAJU, discours qu'elle acclama en hurlant à plusieurs reprises « Shame! Shame! Shame! » devant la boutique, spectacle auquel assistaient de l'intérieur, craignant pour leur sécurité, les propriétaires, les employés et les clients du magasin. Un événement semblable se produisit le lundi 23 mai, lors de la Journée nationale des Patriotes. Venant du Pied-du-Courant où elle s'était d'abord rassemblée, une foule qui arborait autant de pancartes de Québec solidaire que de fleurdelisés ou de drapeau des Patriotes remonta la rue Saint-Denis et s'arrêta devant Le Marcheur pour hurler sa haine. À cette occasion, ce ne fut pas Amir Khadir qui se fit le porte-parole du parti Québec solidaire, ce sont des membres de Québec solidaire qui devinrent les porte-parole d'Amir Khadir.

Ce dernier se fait encore plus discret depuis qu'il a été apostrophé le samedi 18 juin, par l'épouse de Yves Archambault. Le hasard a voulu que la voiture du député de Mercier, qui demeure dans le quartier, fut stoppée au feu rouge à quelques pas du Marcheur, alors qu'au même moment des membres du PAJU manifestaient. Photographié au volant, menacé d'être dénoncé dans les médias pour son soutien au PAJU, Amir Khadir, réagit de quelle façon ? Impossible de le dire de manière certaine. Ce qui est sûr toutefois, c'est qu'après cet incident, le PAJU ne revint plus manifester devant Le Marcheur. Simple coïncidence ? Peut-être.

La question qui se pose maintenant est la suivante : faudra-t-il passer de nouveau par l'intermédiaire de M. Khadir pour convaincre PAJU que les troubles qu'il provoque ont assez duré, et qu'il faut cesser de faire chez Naot ce qu'on a déjà cessé de faire chez Le Marcheur ?



Ideas before identities.
Justice before orthodoxy.

THE MÉTROPOLITAIN



Dan Delmar

delmar@themetropolitain.ca

WWW.THEMETROPOLITAIN.CA

The unilingual Anglophone witch-hunt

Out of the clear blue sky, the manufactured chasm between the two solitudes reopened this week with a string of Quebec commentators fanning the flames of intolerance by, essentially, conducting a witch-hunt to find the ubiquitous unilingual Anglophone.

The most offensive campaign was conducted by *I'Actualité's* Jean-François Lisée – a radical sovereigntist penseur who masked his crusade as an intellectual exercise. He wrote:

“Plus d’une centaine d’internautes ont contribué leurs anecdotes et répondu à ma demande de témoignages pour répondre à la question du billet Is l’unilingue anglais back ? Sommes nous en présence d’une tendance ? D’une nouvelle ethnie d’unilingues anglais venus à Montréal du reste du continent et qui prennent la décision de ne pas apprendre le français ?

La réponse courte: difficile à dire. Les internautes ont versé des dizaines de récits de contacts avec des unilingues. Certains (peu) venus d’ailleurs. Beaucoup, venant de Montréal. Et beaucoup, d’ailleurs et d’ici, qui font au contraire état des efforts d’anglos pour comprendre et parler le français.”

Over 100 people sent Lisée their thoughts on the issue and tens – tens, I tell you! – sent stories about having had “contact” with unilingual Anglophones. One wrote about the trauma of working in English (for the McGill University Health Centre, of all places), another about meeting exotic West Islanders in a Concordia class and one kept statistics on the amount of unilinguals who considered buying his home. It is unclear if Lisée directed his readers to the nearest linguistic rape crisis centre for treatment.

What originally got Lisée’s panties in a bunch was an interview with two unilingual Montreal Anglos that aired, ironically, on CBC



Jean-François Lisée

Radio’s *Daybreak* with Mike Finnerty. It was a slice-of-life, fluff piece that was (hopefully) intended to be neither serious nor evidence of a trend. But that didn’t stop Lisée and other hysterical commentators from setting up the Anglo straw man and assembling the torch-bearing mob.

Tout le monde en parle host Guy A. Lepage veered away from his cue-cards, hinting he would be prepared to boycott the National Bank over one of their unilingual executives; *La Presse* reporters made an issue of a unilingual Ivanhoé Cambridge (subsidiary of the Caisse de dépôt) manager who’s been skipping French classes and sending his secretary in his stead. Apparently, making vast amounts of money for Quebec by being able to communicate in the international language of business is far less important than satisfying the petty insecurities of the Francophone elite.

98.5fm radio host Benoît Dutrizac piled on,

mocking two veteran Anglo city councillors – puzzling since he frequently peppers his rants with “fuck” and “bullshit,” presumably to the disappointment of francophiles. He edited clips of Michael Applebaum and Marvin Rotrand to make them appear to be “blokeier” than they are in real life.

“Le français de Michael Applebaum, comité exécutif de la ville de Montréal, est une insulte aux Montréalais francophones,” Dutrizac said. “Pour l’administration Tremblay, baragouiner le Français comme le font Applebaum et Marvin Rotrand est inacceptable.”

Having listened to Applebaum and Rotrand drone on in council chambers non-stop for literally hours on end, I can say with certainty that both communicate rather well in French, save for their West End accents and the odd anglicisme. I doubt their voters particularly care about the accents, especially after they’ve

taken a dip in NDG’s new Olympic-sized indoor swimming pool. And their French is undoubtedly sharper than the English spoken by Louise Harel and Richard Bergeron – both of whom hope to become Mayor and represent this city across the World.

Regardless – this isn’t a bilingual pissing contest. It’s a call for responsible, intellectually honest critiques of public officials. None of the democratically-elected politicians targeted by the insecure media elite were found to have refused to speak Quebec’s official language or denigrated Francophones – that would have been reason for concern.

The problem lies with this manufactured, pre-holiday controversy; hammering away at a staple issue to ensure that we will have a white Christmas, with nationalists foaming at the mouth. The story is that there is no story; that commentators like Lisée, Lepage and Dutrizac are being self-righteous, paranoid and helping to perpetuate a language crisis that exists mainly within their narrow cultural prisms.

There are unilingual Anglophones from the West Island who have no interest in the French language and are contemptuous of Francophones. Conversely, there are unilingual Francophones from the East End who have no interest in the English language and are contemptuous of Anglophones. Both of these groups of people are unfortunate, and they are the exceptions. It is lazy and downright irresponsible for commentators to highlight the fringes of society and extrapolate troubling trends where none exist.

Bilingualism is healthy. It can make us wealthier, financially and culturally. It should be encouraged, and it is the mission of *The Métropolitain* to do just that. In a perfect World, every Canadian would speak both official languages. Until then, we will have to settle for heavy accents, poor conjugation and a fair amount of good will.



Ideas before identities.
Justice before orthodoxy.

THE MÉTROPOLITAIN

Alex Himelfarb is the Director of the Glendon School of Public and International Affairs, at York University and also leads the *Centre for Global Challenges*.

Alex Himelfarb
info@themetropolitain.ca



A bad day. Now what?

C10, the omnibus crime bill, passed third reading and is now over to the Senate for what is supposed to be sober second thought. The vote could only have been a depressing anticlimax for the many Canadians who were fighting to stop or amend this legislation. And the implacable inevitability of its passage must surely lead many to ask, ‘why bother, what’s the point?’

This question takes on added poignancy as we read with increasing frequency articles describing the relatively unconstrained power of the current majority government to do as it pleases, impervious to opposition voices or contrary evidence. I was watching Jamie Watt on CBC explaining that Canadians were turning the page on the crime issue (and, for that matter, Kyoto) and so, the message goes, it’s time to get over it.

Well, maybe not. Thankfully many are not willing to “get over it”. How heartening, for example, to hear Leadnow.ca announce that they were simply regrouping for the next stage of their campaign for better justice policy. So, here are some reasons not to turn the page, instead to continue the fight.

1) Those who spoke to Parliamentary Committees, wrote letters and op eds, called their MPs or took to the streets have made a difference.

All the opposition parties opposed this bill, rejected the smears that they were “soft on crime”, and focused on public safety rather than easy politics. It has not always been so. And that means that the options are finally being put before Canadians, options for a Canada that is safer, not meaner.

Premiers, whatever their views on the bill, are demanding a more respectful federalism



where they – who must administer the legislation once passed – should be engaged at the outset so that they can bring their views and experience to bear. And several are arguing that they should not have to reallocate money – say from health and education – to pay for the costs of more incarceration and more prisons.

And through the efforts of dozens of organizations, many more Canadians are now paying attention. And that can only be a good thing.

2) The process is not over.

Whatever one’s views of the senate and its reform, that institution has often played an important role in bringing a reflective, evidence-based perspective to bear on proposed laws. Because the members do not face reelection, they are in a good position to avoid the worst excesses of junk politics where

pandering trumps the long-term interests of Canadians.

We know that there is a remarkable consensus among the experts here in Canada and more broadly that aspects of the proposed legislation will make things worse and will certainly divert money better spent on prevention, education, rehabilitation where possible, restoration and help to victims, and the safe reintegration of offenders into the community.

Of course, we can all do the math. A Conservative majority in the Senate tells us that the bill will pass, yet again, with the same anticlimax we saw earlier this week. But the Senate does have a job to do and there is definitely work to be done. Let’s hear the evidence, the experts, the risks, the costs.

3) This legislation is transformative as it

puts punishment and prison at the centre of our criminal justice system.

This has never been the Canadian approach; our balanced justice policies have always focused on safety and justice – and the best evidence of what works. Such a change in direction should never happen without a vigorous debate – a good fight.

That’s all the more important because as we have seen in the U.S., this punitive approach leads to more of the same. It feeds our fears and, when we see that we are no more safe, rather than reverse course we opt for even more imprisonment, even tougher sentences. This beast, the more you feed it the hungrier it gets.

In the U.S., state after state is trying to reverse course but that is no easy task once you have built and filled all those prisons, once you have created a permanent underclass on the one hand and gated communities on the other. We do not want to go that way.

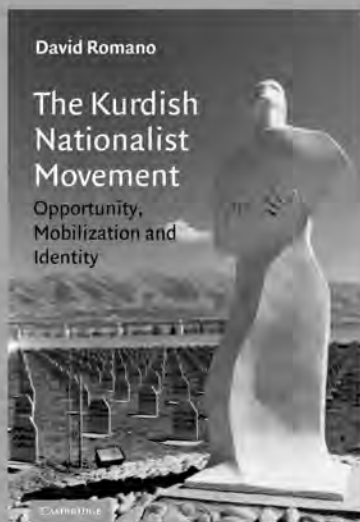
4) In fighting this kind of legislation we are also fighting for a different kind of politics.

Who of us isn’t sometimes afraid, especially for our kids, often angry and horrified at some of the terrible crimes we see on the news, and moved by the suffering of victims and their families. And we know our own frailties, that we can confuse justice and revenge, that our anger can blot out the evidence, that we sometimes lash out and act against our own best interests.

Fighting against this punitive bill is fighting against a politics that exploits our frailties rather than appealing to what is best in us.

5) And fighting against bad policy is good for the soul.

Cambridge Middle East Studies



David Romano focuses on the Kurdish case to generally try and make sense of ethnic nationalist resurgence. In a world rent by a growing number of such conflicts, the questions posed about why, how and when such challenges to the state arise are becoming increasingly urgent.

Throughout the author analyzes these questions through the lens of social movement theory, considering in particular politico-social structures, resource mobilization strategies and cultural identity. His conclusions offer some thought-provoking insights into Kurdish nationalism, as well as into the strengths and weaknesses of various social movement theories.



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Beryl Wajzman

Editeur et Rédacteur en chef
wajzman@themetropolitain.ca

WWW.THEMETROPOLITAIN.CA

PAYETTE: A COMMUNITY PROTECTED, A BATTLE WON BUT THE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

citizenship or two levels of expression.

Secondly, the Payette report is replete with violations of private property. Freedom in a society is grounded in a respect for private property. Payette seeks to dictate to private owners of media everything from how to produce to what to pay to how to hire. If these recommendations are adopted, there will be wholesale closures of media properties.

Thirdly, the report states that there is a "crisis" in media worldwide. It is wrong. There is no crisis. Free expression and the rise of the citizen-journalist as we saw in the Arab spring, is eloquent testament to that. Payette is trying to create a problem where none exists.

Fourthly, the report speaks to the problem of "concentration." Yet we alone represented some 32 independent media

businesses. By introducing state fiat Payette would really see concentration because the independents could not survive under the suffocating demands of the state. More forms. More reports. The Fraser Institute and the Center for Policy Alternatives have already determined that small businesses in Canada spend 19 full working days a year fulfilling government demands. If Payette is enacted, media businesses would easily spend double that. The independents would not be viable.

The bottom line is that radio did not kill newspapers. Television did not kill newspapers. The internet cannot kill papers. We are the content producers.

As a matter of fact, in recently released bankruptcy court documents it was revealed that major newspapers in the United States forced into Chapter 11 protection last year because their

mother companies had leveraged their assets to get into other businesses – papers like The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Chicago Tribune and The Los Angeles Times - actually had healthy profits. But the Payette report, if substantially adopted, will certainly be the death knell for many. And certainly for freedom of the press in Quebec as writers, editors and publishers seek to pacify and placate the suffocating demands of the command state. The Payette Report contains a harmful amount of open-ended spending, unnecessary new programs with unmanageable new bureaucracies that will cost the taxpayer dearly and are totally divorced from the necessities and economic realities of today.

A battle was won but the campaign continues. This story is far from over.

MINISTER ASSURES PROTECTION FOR NON-FRANCOPHONE MEDIA,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

already a free and vigilant press. Following Wajzman's address, Sochaczewski used his time to argue that the media needed less rules and more freedom if the sector was to survive and thrive during the shifting economic conditions of the 21st century.

"If you reliably and consistently deliver the truth, it doesn't matter if you have a degree or pay a fee to an association. No amount of school makes you a journalist," said the veteran publisher. "Only writing stories makes you a journalist." Apart from several points he made about giving Quebec's media the time they need to adjust to the new century's shifting market conditions, he also told St-Pierre that the demands proposed by the Payette Report would effectively kill many of Quebec's independent weeklies. "They cannot afford the burdens being imposed," said Sochaczewski, "and a French language requirement for an English, Italian or Chinese paper is absurd." During the commissioners' question period, the minister, who was visibly annoyed with the suggestion that the plan recommended language testing, told both men they were wrong about the report's draconian language proposals.

She also asked Wajzman why *The Suburban* never bothered to contact her office prior to its editorials on the subject which went viral and his own national op-eds.

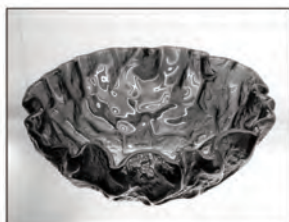
Well, Wajzman had. Apart from telling St-Pierre that he discussed the issue "at length," with Premier Charest's Chief of Staff, Wajzman told the minister he had spoken to officials in her office on five separate occasions before the writing of the editorials and opinion pieces which denounced the Payette Report's more draconian recommendations, including the infamous single sentence (located on page 117) which reads (in French) as follows:

"Que le maintien du titre de journaliste professionnel soit lié à l'obligation d'obtenir un crédit annuel de formation en langue Française." Sochaczewski had pointed out to the minister that he was very satisfied to hear her assurances that the recommendation did not mean to include non-francophones, but the language was clear.

Roughly translated, that means that every one of Quebec's journalists would have to take an annual French exam if they wish to maintain their accreditation as a working "professional journalist." While St-Pierre conceded that the wording was open to misinterpretation, she also repeated to the audience that the measure was meant to improve the quality of written and spoken French amid Quebec's French-speaking media.

"As far as we're concerned," said the minister, "this measure - if adopted - would only affect Quebec's French-speaking media. Everyone else has nothing to worry about." The minister then made a point of thanking Wajzman for making his presentation and comments in French and asked that he disseminate this message since he had brought his denunciations of the Payette recommendations to national attention.

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BIXI is dead. Long live BIXI!

Another nail was hammered into the coffin of Montreal's bike-sharing service when BIXI president Roger Plamondon quietly resigned; the news released just like any dignified public figure with a clear conscience would have it – on a Friday evening.

Plamondon took parting shots at Quebec's municipal affairs minister, Laurent Lessard, for blocking more than \$100-million in loans and loan guarantees that the city of Montreal (illegally) extended to BIXI in May.

BIXI's projections were off, he conceded in an interview with Radio-Canada. Instead of making \$2-million this year, they will lose \$3-million, selling one-third fewer bikes than expected. And he blamed the media for hurting sales.

The resignation comes just a few months after an optimistic Plamondon painted a rosy picture of BIXI's future in front of city councillors, begging them for the handout. Without the prospect of a welfare payment courtesy of Montreal taxpayers, the Société de vélo en libre-service's future now looks quite bleak.

From the start, BIXI took Montreal taxpayers for a ride. The company is a private, non-profit affiliated with Stationnement de Montréal (SDM), the private for-profit firm that manages parking meters. The SDM takes a cut of parking revenue for itself, but must hand over most of it to the city (the auditor general has noted in the past that millions in revenue went unpaid to the city and wondered why Montreal wouldn't want to save money by managing parking itself).

BIXIs use public land, occupying parking spots that would otherwise be generating revenue for the city. However, unlike SDM,



BIXI pays no rent – so far, it has been under no obligation to give the city a cut of revenues. Montrealers who have wondered how the BIXI network has expanded so quickly need only look at where the money is going or, more accurately, where it's not going.

BIXI's business model is unsustainable without this type of indirect public subsidy – it's even unsustainable with the subsidy. Plamondon and his supporters at city hall who have consistently claimed the company takes no public money are, in effect, lying. With sluggish sales, taxpayers could have been on the hook for tens of millions more, if not for Minister Lessard wisely recognizing that the city of Montreal is not a last-resort lender for failing businesses.

So, where does BIXI go from here?

The Ministry has ordered the sale of its

international operations (the only commercially viable part of the business). With sales from the US to the UK, there is reason for optimism; even though BIXI has been poorly managed locally from Day One, the system itself is quite brilliant in its design and functionality, and easily marketable abroad.

The city of Montreal itself should take over complete control of BIXI and run it as a paramunicipal corporation, even if it means paying fair market price for the company's assets. It is the only solution to repair the damage done to the public purse and would ensure that Quebecers benefited from home-grown innovation.

Since BIXI was introduced in 2009 (it was supposed to be profitable by now), politicians milked the made-in-Chicoutimi system as a source of pride for all Quebecers. Montrealers

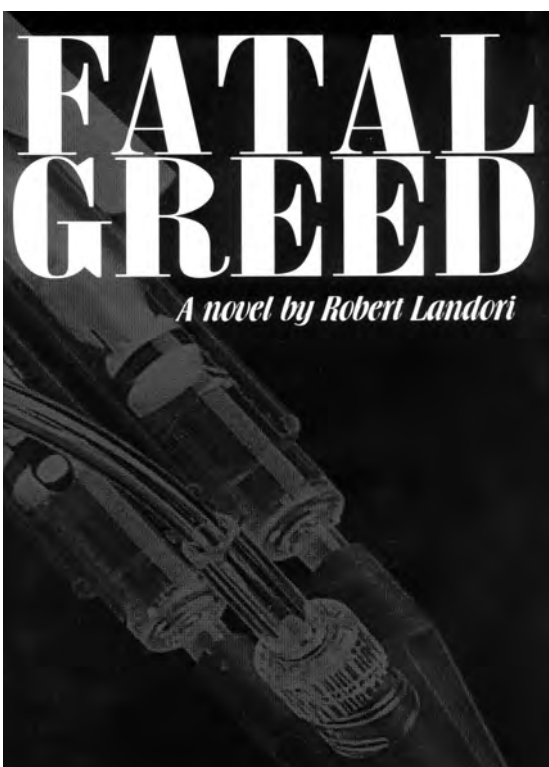
were promised a cheap bike rental service that would be subsidized by international sales.

But Plamondon and BIXI management have been walking on thin ice with municipal governments in the US – they weren't paying attention and didn't foresee the Obama administration's Buy American Act interfering with their dealings. As a result, future expansion may be in jeopardy and BIXI manufacturing is being partially outsourced to companies south of the border.

Even if BIXI can make a go of its international operations, there is still no clear timeline or agreement for revenue-sharing with the city of Montreal, which was used thanklessly as a launching pad for the company. Officials from the city of Toronto were more shrewd in negotiations with BIXI, cutting a deal to split revenue 50/50 – no such luck for taxpayers here who may have been under the impression that BIXI's benefits extended beyond those related to physical well-being and a negligible reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The BIXI debacle is an illustration of a dogma that is becoming more commonplace in traditionally progressive Quebec: Profits are reserved for the private sector, while losses can easily be socialized. If there are profits to be made for the citizens of Quebec, why not compete with the private sector and make them? If there's money to be saved, why outsource the work to private companies, costing taxpayers more in the long-run?

If the city of Montreal can only overcome its newfound aversion to the free market, BIXI could become that source of pride it was expected to be. That might require, however, putting an end to this current relationship, which could be described at best as parasitic, and at worst, sinister.



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David T. Jones
info@themetropolitain.ca

David Jones, co-author of *Uneasy Neighbour(s): Canada, the USA and the Dynamics of State, Industry and Culture*, is a former U.S. diplomat who served in Ottawa. He now lives in Arlington, Virginia."

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The Key to Understanding Keystone

The U.S. decision to defer decision on the Keystone XL pipeline has tossed an eagle into the dovecot. A "no brainer" decision regarding the merits of providing secure energy (as well as j-o-b-s) has apparently been adroitly manipulated by the brainless.

Consequently, the State Department disclaimer that the delay decision was not "political" is disingenuous at best; it passes neither the sniff nor the giggle test. After years of review, acres of trees slaughtered in written testimony, and scads of let-it-all-hang-out public hearings, the State Department announced that there were no environmental objections to the pipeline. Subsequently, President Obama said that he would make the decision—retrospectively a fatal blow to any near term decision.

Obama's action is purely political. If he had decided in favor of endorsing the pipeline, he would have infuriated environmentalists. If he had decided against it, he would have enraged unions. So, in one of those "profiles of courage"—he punted. If the U.S. had royal commissions, you can be confident that the issue would have been referred to such. Instead, the path of Keystone XL will be reviewed/reexamined/reargued—but with the political impact deferred.

The course of the Keystone XL has been reviewed and debated to a fare-thee-well.

Other pipelines already cross the aquifer. The State Dept decided—and announced—that there was no environmental danger. But if you have enough money to purchase enough lawyers, you can prevent almost anything from happening. And the environmentalists have decided that Keystone XL is the hill on which they are prepared to fall on their swords. It is irrelevant whether it will prevent oil sands from being

Obama's action is purely political. If he had decided in favor of endorsing the pipeline, he would have infuriated environmentalists. If he had decided against it, he would have enraged unions. So, in one of those "profiles of courage"—he punted.

exploited or its product sold. It is irrelevant whether the U.S. will consume less oil with or without Keystone XL. It is a battle of symbolism rather than substance.

The political reality is that Obama fears losing the environmentalist activists and their funding more than losing the votes of white blue collar workers (he has calculated that they don't vote Democratic any more). Nevertheless, losing general union support—and giving the Republicans a free hit at him for refusing to support xyz number of jobs—was one result he didn't want to embrace. So...(Plan B's standard action, if you don't

want to do something—study it).

Prime Minister Harper has put on a happy face while expressing regret over the postponement following his Hawaii session with Obama. He may well remember the kertuffle during the 2008 campaign in which information was leaked citing assurances by a senior Obama Democrat that, despite what the Democrats were saying, the NAFTA Treaty

was not going to be comprehensively reviewed. And it never was; the rhetoric was a sop to the unions but never designed to be anything more. Consequently, Harper may be assuming that following an Obama victory, the president would decide to endorse the pipeline, citing the routing adjustments that TransCanada is already discussing with Nebraska and other stakeholders.

Canada, however, should view the Keystone decision postponement as a "reset" opportunity. Rather than hanging around like a rejected suitor hoping for reconsideration by a flighty maiden, Ottawa should vigorously

explore its Asia option. The reality remains that even a positive Obama endorsement of the (reconfigured?) pipeline route guarantees nothing. Remember those millions of dollars and legions of lawyers willing to sue—forever. The existential point is that the environmentalists want no/no pipeline and betting that their opposition can be overcome may be a winning bet, but is unlikely to give a short term payoff.

To be sure, various Canadian leaders in the past have played "third option" cards and found that proximity to the U.S. market trumped such cards. Nevertheless, the Alberta oil sands are a tremendous natural asset with a vast earnings potential for decades. The prospect of profits—and taxes on those profits—should not be deferred. Regardless of the difficulties in getting agreement from First Nations to the west of the oil fields and the reality that Canadian environmentalists (further subsidized by U.S. anti-pipeline funding) will resist furiously, the GOC should expeditiously explore that option. After all, a pipeline to western Canadian ports is totally subject to Canadian law and regulation; Ottawa will not be depending on the wavering beneficence of the United States. Thus, regardless of the ultimate outcome of the USG decision, having a second option is always useful—and there should be sufficient oil for both markets as well as greater independence for Canada.

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Le printemps arabe

Qu'a-t-on appris de la Leçon?

Il y a un proverbe/adage anglais qui dit: "What goes around comes around". Mais lorsqu'il s'agit de mettre en pratique ce dernier dans un pays, tel la Syrie, on est mieux de retourner dans le temps quelques années en arrière pour revoir le passé afin de tenter de prédire l'avenir, car hélas, nul ne connaît maintenant la suite de ce que le Proche-Orient va vivre à la suite de la déstabilisation de la presque dernière dictature « républicaine » dans la région.

En effet, pour des années, le régime des Assad a gouverné par le feu et le sang écrasant non seulement sa propre population mais également les peuples voisins, dont principalement les Libanais sous l'œil complice des ses alliés d'hier. Cela lui avait valu également et ironiquement le respect des Administrations Bush, Clinton et Bush fils jusqu'en 2005 date de l'assassinat du feu Premier ministre du Liban, Rafic Hariri, ami des Bush et financier international.

Cet assassinat avait fait déborder le vase du ras-le-bol et presque la moitié de la population libanaise s'étaient retrouvée dans la rue, toutes religions confondues pour réclamer le départ des troupes d'occupation syriennes. Le printemps des peuples arabes prenait alors son envol à partir du Pays du Cèdre.

Quelques années plus tard, nous voilà en train de revivre les mêmes soulèvements populaires des autres peuples arabes de la région. Et la Syrie n'échappe pas à la règle. Ironiquement, mêmes les alliés d'hier de Damas, sont rendus ses critiques obligés après la chute des régimes dictatoriaux en 2011. Comme si l'Administration américaine et les pays européens se sont rendu-compte qu'ils ne pouvaient plus avoir deux discours pour une même réalité. Hypocrisie ou éveil? Seule l'histoire permettra de confirmer l'une ou l'autre de ces deux possibilités!

L'effet domino!

Or, pour mieux comprendre cette dynamique et essayer de savoir ce qui a conduit en très peu de temps à l'effritement des régimes qui ont longtemps étaient considérés comme les alliés indéfectibles des Américains, un retour dans l'histoire devient alors un must.

En effet, suite aux événements du 11 septembre 2001 et la prise de l'Irak par les troupes américaines, une nouvelle dynamique avait été alors créée. Les auteurs de cette dynamique avaient trouvé en les régimes arabes existants des vassaux de l'Occident, exécutant leurs ordres et maintenant leurs bons offices tout en écrasant par le sang et le feu leurs populations mais également les autres voisins comme c'était le cas du Liban

sous l'occupation syrienne.

Ainsi, prenant conscience de la nécessité de changement de ces régimes dictatoriaux et des monarchies absolues accusés d'être à la solde du « Grand Satan » (les États-Unis), les auteurs de cette nouvelle dynamique, dont Osama Bin Laden, s'étaient alors décidés de financer et de mener des actions de « Jihad », la guerre sainte telle que définie dans les écrits sacrés des musulmans, pour libérer la terre d'Islam de cette « impureté » que représentaient lesdits régimes et du coup évincer la présence des « infidèles », les descendants des « Croisés », c'est-à-dire les Américains, de la sphère d'influence arabe et musulmane en particulier. Ce fut alors les attentats du 11 septembre 2001 et tout ce qui s'en suivit.

La ressemblance des objectifs mène à l'union dans l'action

Ces mouvements musulmans fondamentalistes, bien que divers et n'ayant souvent rien en commun à part un ennemi ou deux plus exactement : les Américains et les Israéliens, ont réussi malgré tout à fortifier leur présence en obligeant parfois leurs régimes à faire des concessions à travers une mascarade de pseudo-élections dont la plupart était truquée, mais qui a tout de même permis aux plus fondamentalistes de gruger de nombreux sièges dans les parlements desdits pays, dont l'Égypte à titre d'exemple.

Bien qu'important dans le conscient de ses mouvements à mouvance islamique, souvent salafistes, dont les Frères musulmans, le gain de sièges n'étaient en effet qu'un prélude à un agenda plus vaste qui avait pour objectif final la prise de pouvoir et la mise à mort de régimes accusés de tous les maux possibles et imaginaires mais surtout de s'être vendus à un Occident impérialiste cherchant – entre autre – à confisquer les richesses naturelles des peuples musulmans. D'ailleurs, il aurait fallu la guerre d'Irak et l'occupation de ce pays par les troupes américaines sous l'excuse d'instaurer la démocratie pour comprendre que les Américains n'avaient pas réellement anticipé la sauvegarde de la paix dans un pays qui n'a connu depuis des décennies que dictatures et oppression. Cela dit, les analystes de la région avaient anticipé un effritement de la situation interne pouvant mener à des guerres fratricides et meurtrières interethniques, dans l'absence d'un gouvernement central et fort!

Pis, pour les Salafistes, la guerre de l'Irak était la perte du pouvoir sunnite au profit d'une population chiite majoritaire. Une perte qui ne peut pas être acceptée par les Salafistes qui perçoivent les Chiites comme des hérétiques et qu'ils accusent d'être à la solde

des ayatollahs de l'Iran. Cela ajouta de l'huile sur le feu et la mobilisation des Sunnites à travers la région devint telle que les insurgés en Irak parvinrent de tout bord, y compris de la Syrie avec la connivence et l'encouragement de Damas. Cela conduisait à miner la présence des Américains et leur plan de voir un Irak stabilisé et démocratique comme la propagande états-unienne aimait le publiciser.

Or, le résultat était la prise de conscience par les autres mouvements islamistes à tendance salafiste dans la région que l'Occident n'était plus capable d'imposer sa loi et qu'il finirait par quitter les pays musulman à force de perdre de soldats dans des attentats. D'ailleurs, Israël avait débuté cette stratégie de replie sur soi après la perte élevée en soldats avant l'an 2000 au Liban causée par des attentats commis par le Hezbollah. Cela avait conduit Ehud Barak, à l'époque, à prendre la décision de délaissier ses alliés libanais et de rentrer au bercail occasionnant du fait la fin de la zone dite de sécurité au Sud Liban et faisant du coup du Hezbollah le « premier » groupe au Moyen-Orient « a avoir remporté la guerre contre Tsahal » jusque là « imbattable » dans l'imaginaire arabe et musulman.

Cette leçon bien apprise par les Islamistes a encouragé Ben-Laden et ses sbires à utiliser alors l'arme de la terreur pour arriver à briser le moral des décideurs occidentaux les conduisant aux décisions de retrait des pays musulmans où ils se trouvaient dans une tentative, officiellement d'instaurer la paix et la démocratie à l'occidentale.

L'occupation de l'Irak, la première pierre dans la mise d'un nouveau Sykes-Picot

La guerre de l'Irak en 2003, sonna alors le glas de Sykes-Picot! Cela était visible à travers la fin de l'Irak comme nous le connaissions jusqu'alors. Depuis, et même après le retrait des troupes américaines quelques années plus tard, l'Irak continue de se rechercher sans parler des attentats fratricides qui continuent jusqu'à date mais dont l'information est devenue tellement banalisée par les médias occidentaux qu'on entend plus parler des dizaines de morts qui tombent au quotidien suite aux voitures piégées et autres attentats visant aussi bien les uns que les autres des communautés chiites et sunnites. Quant aux Chrétiens d'Irak, ils deviennent de plus en plus une denrée rare car forcés de quitter leur pays pour survivre les attentats qui cherchent justement à les tuer ou à les pousser à émigrer laissant derrière eux, terres et une histoire vieille de deux mille ans...

Cette même histoire, ne semble pas avoir été apprise par les Occidentaux et à leur tête

les États-Unis car voilà que depuis la Tunisie jusqu'en Syrie en passant par l'Égypte et la Lybie, les dictatures tombent comme un château de cartes mais non sans laisser un sérieux questionnement quant à l'avenir desdits pays.

En effet, considérés comme « le printemps arabe », ces révolutions spontanées à première vue, ne semblent en fait être que le travail bien calculé et analysé puis mis à exécution par les mouvements islamistes qui attendaient le moment opportun pour se lancer sur la scène. À leur avantage, un Occident de plus en plus faible économiquement et la peur de se noyer dans un nouvel Irak avec toutes les répercussions qu'une telle possibilité pourrait avoir sur leur opinion publique et sur leur économie. À cela s'ajoute le spectre des éventuelles pertes en vie humaine en cas d'une décision d'intervention sur le terrain pour appuyer ceux que les Américains considéraient comme étant leur alliés pragmatiques dans la région.

La réussite égyptienne des Frères musulmans

D'ailleurs et pour prendre l'exemple de l'Égypte, le mouvement de la jeunesse qui, s'il a commencé par être spontané, comme considère de nombreux analystes occidentaux, a vite tourné à la faveur des Islamistes, en l'occurrence, les Frères musulmans à cause notamment d'une absence de la solidarité de la société civile, longtemps contrôlée par le régime dictatorial de Moubarak. Or, et comme par hasard, les Frères musulmans échappaient à tout contrôle direct. Bien que sujets à une oppression du régime jusqu'à il y a quelques années, le régime Moubarak s'était rendu compte qu'il ne pouvait plus maintenir une main de fer contre eux car ils avaient réussi à monopoliser une rue de plus en plus pauvre et endoctrinée contre le régime. Le résultat ne pouvait être que la mise en place de ce que Moubarak avait qualifié de politique d'ouverture et le début d'une série de réformes qui allait permettre le multipartisme. C'est ainsi que les Frères musulmans firent leur entrée triomphale au Parlement égyptien.

Or, voyant la montée de la colère en Tunisie dirigée principalement par les Frères musulmans et autres groupement islamistes, prendre le dessus d'un régime délaissé en très peu de temps par ses propres alliés occidentaux qui l'avaient protégé durant des décennies, les autres partis cousins ont vite réagit et lancé à leur tour les leurs dans les rues pour prendre d'assaut le régime en place dans les pays où ils se trouvaient.

L'Égypte n'avait pas échappé à cette règle. Voilà que les Frères musulmans reprennent activement du service et tente coûte que coûte de récupérer le mouvement étudiant qui,

selon de nombreux analystes égyptiens et arabes informés, l'aurait déjà été depuis le premier mois de manifestations car les Frères musulmans étaient les seuls capables de monopoliser autant de personnes en très peu de temps pour se retrouver dans les rue en appui aux étudiants... Cela avait comme conséquence, la dépendance de la réussite du mouvement des jeunes sur les Frères musulmans qui auraient fini non seulement par le pénétrer à travers de jeunes gens bien endoctrinés, mais d'en prendre le contrôle sous l'égide d'un slogan à la recherche de plus de liberté et de démocratie en Égypte.

D'ailleurs, la dernière crise de la semaine passée démontre que les choses ne se calmeront pas en Égypte tant et aussi longtemps les élections ne conduisent pas à un nouveau gouvernement n'ayant aucun membre ou presque de l'ancien régime supposé être évincé avec l'arrestation de Moubarak. Or, l'armée égyptienne se trouve actuellement entre l'enclume de permettre des élections complètement libres et le marteau du résultat escompté suite aux dites élections.

Entre l'enclume de la démocratie et le marteau du résultat islamiste anticipé!

En effet, dans l'hypothèse où l'armée égyptienne permette des élections totalement libres et transparentes sans un quelconque interventionnisme, le résultat escompté sera sans doute, selon de nombreux analystes égyptiens, annonciateur de la prise du pouvoir « démocratiquement » par les Frères musulmans. Cela voudrait dire que toutes les ententes de paix conclues avec Israël pourraient se retrouver d'un jour à l'autre aux calendes grecques créant ainsi une toute nouvelle dynamique de tension dans la région. La réussite des Frères musulmans, comme se fut le cas en Tunisie, serait le fruit du fait que ce sont les seuls groupes à être bien organisés et qui peuvent compter sur la majorité d'une population pauvre et opprimée par l'ancien régime et qui avait trouvé dans les mouvements islamistes de quoi les aider dans leur quotidien. Aussi important, serait la mobilisation de tous les autres groupements similaires dans les autres pays pour venir en aide aux Frères musulmans de l'Égypte dans un effort islamique qui transcende les frontières des pays au nom de la Oumma (nation) musulmane. Les autres partis politiques en Égypte que l'Occident espère trouver au gouvernement, souvent formés par des élites éduquées en Occident, n'auront que peu de chances d'accéder car la masse est tellement endoctrinée contre l'Occident qu'elle voit en ces derniers des agents... de l'Occident. Les Coptes eux, comme les autres Chrétiens de la



région, deviennent du coup des cibles de plus en plus faciles dans une tentative de les forcer à quitter leur pays ou mourir sous l'œil presque indifférent (complice ou impuissant?) de l'Occident...

La Libye, bien que ce soit trop tôt pour connaître l'avenir, semble se diriger sur le même chemin fratricide que celui de l'Irak. Toutefois, à la différence qu'il soit fratricide sunnite-chiite, celui qui se pointe à l'horizon après l'exécution du Colonel Mouammar Kadhafi est tribal, telle le confirme la multitude de guéguerres meurtrières que se livrent les différentes milices ayant des allégeances tribales différentes. Une chose pour sûre, c'est la loi islamique, la Charia qui sera celle de l'État comme en Tunisie... démocratiquement!

Damas... dernier espoir pour un despote versus dislocation tous azimuts !

Et voilà que les cousins des cousins, les Frères musulmans de Syrie, longtemps opprimés par le régime Assad sous le l'œil complice des États-Unis et des Européens, se lancent dans la dernière bataille pour faire tomber celui qui a longtemps représenté pour les Américains la stabilité du front Israélo-arabe.

En effet, aussi étrange que cela puisse paraître sans la connivence des Assad père et fils avec les puissances occidentales et notamment américaines, les frontières nord et nord-est d'Israël pouvaient être une zone en constante ébullition. Or, cette stabilité quasi omniprésente est le fruit d'une politique

d'entente tacite bien claire entre les Américains et le régime Assad. Les quelques actions du Hezbollah contre l'État hébreu sont principalement le fruit de la politique iranienne dans la région qui cherchait à se démarquer un peu de son allié syrien lorsqu'il s'agissait d'une tentative de diminution de la pression occidentale sur le régime des ayatollahs notamment en matière de nucléaire...!

Aujourd'hui, pris par le slogan de « printemps arabe » et de la « démocratisation » de ce monde et la fin des dictatures, l'Occident et notamment les Américains sont incapables d'adopter la même attitude vis-à-vis de la Syrie comme dans les autres pays. Car ici, et à la différence des autres pays arabes, les intérêts américains sont plus nombreux et l'avenir de l'État hébreu est en jeu. Or, le dilemme devient alors pour l'administration Obama celui de savoir s'il applique la même décision comme ce fut le cas contre la Libye ou laissera-t-il le temps au régime d'en finir avec la révolte populaire tout en croisant ses doigts pour que le régime résiste au peuple...

Bien ce que cette attitude américaine semble impossible voire inconcevable pour beaucoup, il n'en demeure pas moins que le fait qu'il n'y a pas d'alternative au régime actuel en Syrie laisse fortement croire que les Américains jouent à l'Autruche, condamnant d'une part les exactions du régime contre sa propre population et se contentant de sanctions économiques pour calmer les esprits des autres peuples arabes et musulmans en particulier.

Or, l'Administration américaine sait très

bien que la fin du régime des Assad signifie la prise du pouvoir par les extrémistes musulmans ce qui se traduira rapidement par un bain de sang interreligieux en Syrie notamment et qui pourra enflammer la région et mettre en danger aussi bien la stabilité fragile du Liban mais également la sécurité de l'État d'Israël.

« Printemps arabe » ou victoire régionale du salafisme?

Que faire? C'est la question que le monde occidental se pose après que le « Printemps arabe » semble être devenu la victoire des frères musulmans ou du salafisme tout court, qui, au nom d'une démocratie occidentale, prend d'assaut les amis de ce même Occident hypocrite qui avait longtemps fermé les yeux sur les exactions desdits régimes « amis » tant que ses intérêts étaient saufs. Il s'en suivit que le fondamentalisme avait fini par gagner sa mise en capitalisant sur les opprimés et en les endoctrinant pour le moment idéal. Le printemps arabe fut ce moment longtemps attendu.

Qu'elle leçon en tirer?

Une drôle de question pour certain car nul ne sait jusqu'où les changements dans ces pays arriveront à affecter l'avenir des peuples de la région... voire les relations entre l'Occident et les pays musulmans, qui désormais, portent réellement leur plein sens!

Ce qui est certain, c'est que sans l'aide occidentale immédiate, dans le cas de l'Égypte et la Libye, plus tard le Yémen, ainsi que les autres pays arabes dont les régimes semblent chancelant y compris en Syrie, 2012 verra réellement la fin du monde... ou plus exactement la fin d'un monde comme nous l'avons connu depuis la fin de la Grande Guerre... la fin de Sykes-Picot... L'avenir ne semble pas non plus clair au cas où ce monde venait à une fin... la guerre fratricide prendrait alors plus d'ampleur et la fameuse « prédilection » du philosophe français aura alors tout son sens : « le XXIème siècle sera religieux ou ne le sera point ». À voir le résultat du printemps arabe, sans le « débarquement » économique et culturel à l'appui de la société civile dans les pays du « Printemps arabe » dans une tentative de récupérer les mouvements de la jeunesse « révolutionnaire » des radicaux musulmans, le XXIème siècle sera sans doute alors chargé de guerre de religions.

En attendant la suite de l'histoire, le dicton que les régimes évincés répètent désormais, est plus jamais d'actualité : « Il est dangereux d'être l'ennemi des États-Unis, mais il est mortel d'être leur ami ».



Robert Presser

presser@themetropolitain.ca

WWW.THEMETROPOLITAIN.CA

Angie and Sarko save the Euro!

The following conversation was overheard at the weekly emergency meeting of the European First Ministers prior to the G20 meeting in Cannes. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy were reviewing the final communiqué before meeting the

press. Sarkozy (NS) and Merkel (AM) are grappling with the challenge of coming up with a solution to the Euro debt crisis once and for all, since previous proposals failed to calm international markets.

NS: I don't think this is going to do it, Madame Chancellor; the bailout fund is too small. We will have to

find more!

AM: But mein President, 440 billion Euros is more than enough to save the Greeks! My people will not stand for additional support; they already want Greece out of the Euro.

NS: Look, we would all like to go back in time and kick them out, but like you said, if Greece fails, then the

Euro fails. Did you have to come up with that one? It really boxed us into a corner.

AM: It was written for me by Christine Lagarde, you know, your former finance minister? You wanted her as the IMF head, not me. I told you that it would have been easier to have a frumpy German man rather than an elegant French woman preach austerity. No one believes her when she walks around in shoes that cost more than a Frankfurt bricklayer's monthly salary.

NS: Madame, please focus on the figures at hand. We need a number large enough to convince the international community that we are serious. Hmm, something big and round, with lots of zeros...would you consider a trillion Euros? Be bold, like the Americans!

AM: Ach, where are we going to get a trillion Euros? I hear noises that the G20 is going to refuse to contribute to our European Financial Stability Facility, and we have about half of the 780 billion Euros left to use. We can't even save Italy with that kind of money, neither the Spanish after them. So, Nicolas, how do we get to your big, round, American-style bailout number?

NS: Well, you remember how Chinese Premier Wen visited us back in June and made all kinds of nice noises about supporting the Euro? I think that it is time for the Chinese to step up to the assiette, as they say. I can give them a call.

AM: We do not have the time to negotiate with the Chinese, it will take months. We need to take action now, mein herr.

NS: Madame Chancellor, please learn to live in shades of grey like we French politicians do. We will change the communiqué to say that we will leverage up the fund, seeking as much as two trillion Euros, and the press will know that the only nation with that amount of Euro reserves around is China. The financial markets will pressure China to invest in the EFSF threatening to take a run on the Euro unless the Chinese pledge support. Faced with the prospect of losing on their Euro reserves or investing in our collective

future, I believe they will invest in us. After all, we are their largest trading partner.

AM: So, you will get the media to do the dirty work for us, yes? Umgläublich! Unbelievable! Such crass manipulation, yet so pragmatic. No wonder we are such close partners, I provide the gravitas in this relationship and you manipulate behind the scenes. What do you expect the Chinese to ask for in return?

NS: I suspect that they will want to go on a buying spree of European assets, like the Arabs did in London in the 1970s when they were flush with cash. But this time, there will be a whole continent for the taking. They will ask us not to squirm and squeal when they want to buy into established European companies, even banks.

AM: I am not prepared to see BMW renamed the Lucky Shandong Auto Company. You are a big talker, Sarko, no one wants your French companies anyway, and we know that Germany will be the first target.

NS: Madame Chancellor, if the English could surrender Jaguar and Range Rover to Tata Motors and the Indians, you too must be prepared to sacrifice for the good of greater Europe.

AM: I am not going to the microphones to propose this nonsense; I will lose my coalition in the Bundestag over it. You're facing defeat in any case, you do it.

NS: Madame, I have made a career out of finding someone else to go first to take the hit. You are the leader of European prudence and conservatism; you must go first, j'insiste.

(A long silence ensues between them – Merkel gives Sarkozy a deathly stare)

NS: D'accord! I will go get Italy to do it! We're saving the Italians next anyway!

AM: Fielen danke, mein President, you are truly showing your pan-European sensitivities. With leadership like ours, Europe is certainly saved.

NS: Naturellement.
(If any readers didn't get it, this is a satire.)


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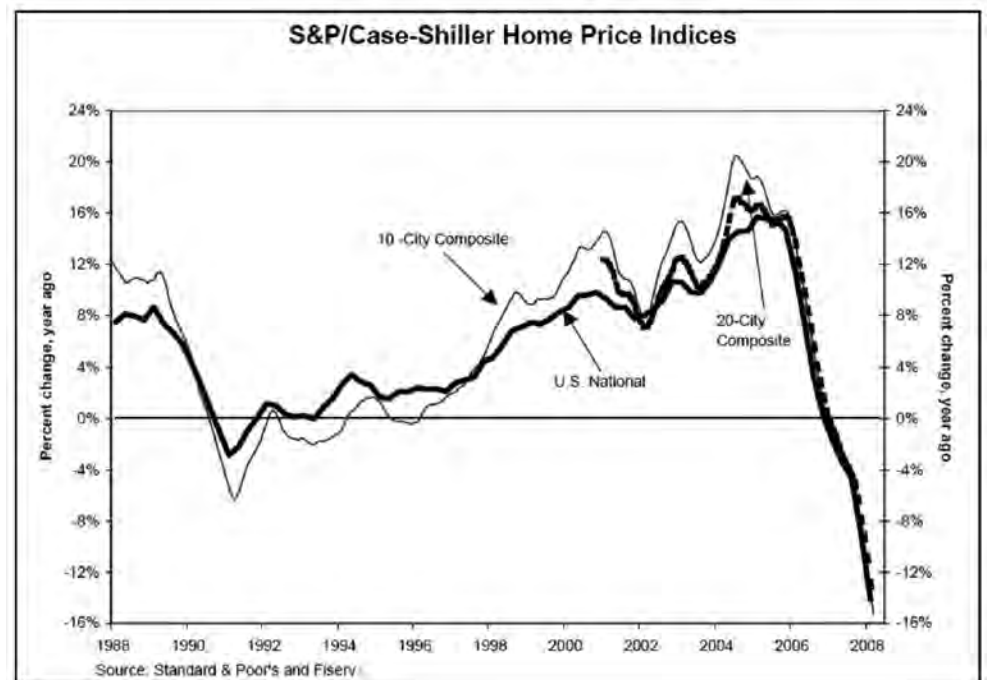
Linking the delusions of the Occupy Movement and the EU protestors

As the Occupy movement clashes with municipal governments across North America and protests continue against austerity in Europe, governments, the broader public and the media continue to debate as to what these protesters really want. The Occupiers and European protestors decry the “inequality” and “injustice” of the current western economic model that has bred “excesses” that favoured the top one percent of taxpayers. However, most of the other 99% have not embraced the movement—why not? Perhaps an investigation of these terms will help us figure out why.

First to the US protest movement, upset that Wall Street received its bailout while mainstreet USA got nothing. Not true – the meltdown of US financial assets that was unleashed in the fall of 2008 was largely due to the inability of the US’ most recent homeowners to pay for the mortgages that they signed for with no money down, no principal payments in many cases and amortizations that

home ownership as tacit government policy. Once these two giant lenders opened the door to clients who were previously considered unworthy of mortgage financing, home ownership took off and prices rose dramatically between the mid-1990s and the peak of 2005.

So where is the inequality? The US government facilitated the contracting of mortgage debt for those who could least afford it. US tax policy provides for the deductibility of mortgage interest that acts as a giant subsidy to the middle class (largely) and allows homeowners to refinance credit card debt by dumping it on their houses, since rising values created more mortgage room. The problem started when the financial industry packaged and resold these mortgages and mixed poorly rated loans in with good ones, and rated the entire package as a quality investment. However, pause to consider who bought the mortgages. They were purchased by other “evil, greedy” financial institutions desperately in search of high yield investments in a low

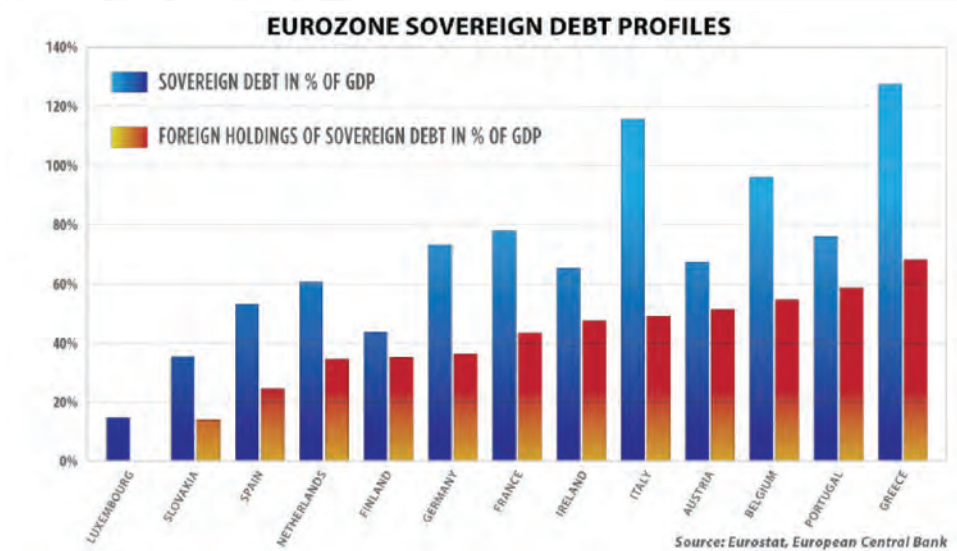


The US government facilitated the contracting of mortgage debt for those who could least afford it.

stretched to the middle of the century. The US home ownership rate rose from 65% in 1995 up to 69.2% within ten years, and that increase was mostly in the hands of those who could least afford to pay for their slice of the American Dream. Many regular, middle-class Americans were caught in the real estate frenzy that ensued and took out more debt than they could handle since the banks had been encouraged to promote home ownership. The Clinton administration told Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to stop redlining and promote

interest rate environment. So, let's summarize the sequence of events – the government promoted giving mortgages to those who could not pay, rising real-estate values goosed consumer spending as homeowners dumped more debt on their houses, the evil lending institutions got rich and then used greedy financial intermediaries to sell the debt to even greedier investment institutions. From a left wing perspective, what's wrong with that?

But wait, it gets better. When the markets froze up and there was no lending going on,



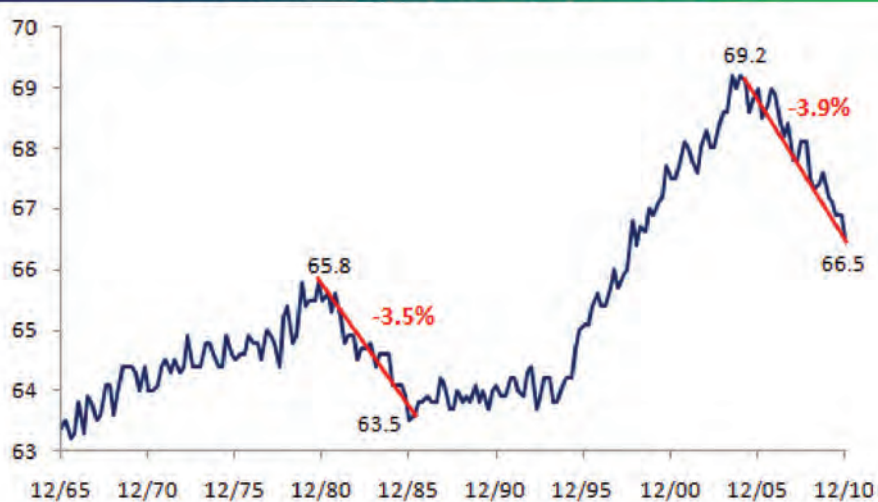
the government started bailing out the banks so that as many homeowners as possible could keep the homes they were in AND consumers could still get loans to sustain their spending, and keep savings intact. Again, if you hate the banks and love government intervention, this is policy Valhalla. There is little injustice in this equation – lots of bankers and investment professionals within the top 1% lost their jobs in the Great Recession as the banking industry retrenched, just like the other 99% suffered increasing unemployment. The bankers were following the path laid out for them by their government, and those who invested in the bad debt lost billions of dollars as it was revalued. Small investors who had their savings protected by the US FDIC kept their money, while Wall Street will take decades to recover. The government bailouts were designed to save everybody, not just the rich. Just don't tell that to the Occupiers.

The protestors among the EU's weaker members are similarly delusional. The only reason Greece could afford to sustain a bloated

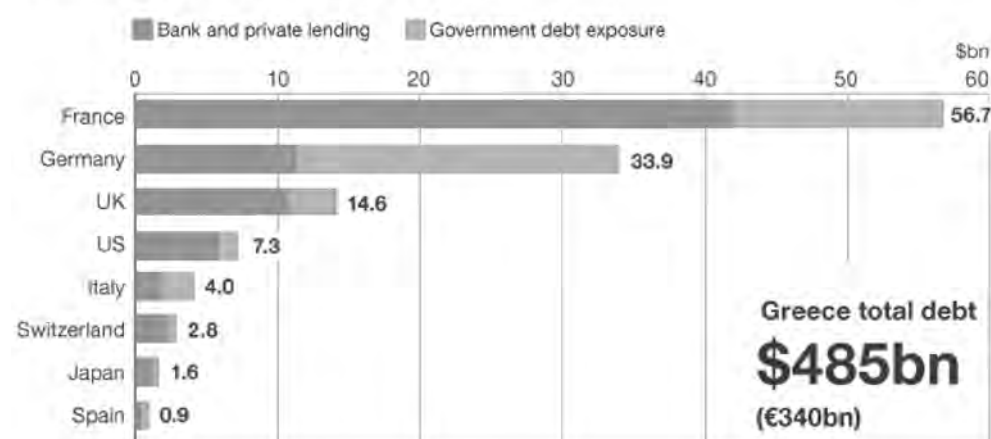
civil service, rampant tax evasion, generous retirement and pension regimes and unsustainable social programs was because they were contracting their debt in Euros. The Euro was backed by its powerful northern member states like Germany and France, and their unwavering support of pan-European financial and political institutions created security in the minds of those buyers of Greek (and Italian, and Spanish) debt that the North would always support the South. This belief was so strong that it was the banks from Northern Europe who were the major purchasers of Southern European debt, far beyond what was prudent when compared to their capital base.

In the end, the debt racked up by the PIIGS (Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Greece and Spain) became unsustainable as their growth rates faltered, productivity stagnated and their own real-estate bubbles burst just as they had in the United States. So when the Greeks protest outside the parliament, what are they asking for? Garnishing the assets of all the wealthy people in Greece would not solve the problem.

US Homeownership Rate (%): 1965 - 2010



Countries most exposed to Greek debt



Source: BIS Quarterly Review

The government cannot sustain, nor restore spending that it cannot borrow for in the open markets. If they were protesting the incompetence of the Papandreou government, then that would be one thing – but they really see their international lenders as the ultimate bad guys. If they had been lending Greece unrepayable sums of money up until now, how dare they stop? Sustaining irresponsible lending would be seen the only decent thing to do. It was such a nice arrangement until someone started asking uncomfortable questions about how it was ever going to be paid back.

I understand the frustrations of Europe's protestors. The Austrian school of classic, conservative economics has a very limited playbook when it comes to debt crises like this one; cut spending, write off debt and raise

revenues until the problem is corrected and positive economic growth can be revived through investor confidence. The problem is compounded by the remedy; further cuts under the austerity program actually increases the economic contraction and conditions get worse before they get better. The Austrian school also never foresaw a world where sovereign economies are so closely connected and that a crisis in a tiny country like Greece could be amplified to affect all of Europe, and thus the US and eventually China. What demands would Schumpeter set to bail out Greece, whom he would certainly consider profligate and undeserving?

Schumpeter would probably be equally disgusted with the French and German investors who bought up the Greek paper

The debt racked up by the PIIGS (Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Greece and Spain) became unsustainable as their growth rates faltered, productivity stagnated and their own real-estate bubbles burst just as they had in the United States.

because they wanted the high yield on Euro-denominated debt. If Greece had issued its debt in Drachmas, the lack of pan-European guarantees for the solidity of the currency would have brought their borrowing to a halt years earlier. The protesters have to realize that as they rail against the European Central Bank, the IMF and the World Bank, these institutions worked to keep the party going much longer than it should have. Just like the Occupiers, the European protesters are manifesting against the forces who were their greatest enablers.

Some debtor nations are now getting the message. The Spanish have just elected the People's Party, the conservative opposition led

by Mariano Rajoy to replace the Socialist Party and Prime Minister Zapatero. Rajoy has promised tough love via more austerity, reforms and deficit reduction to calm Spain's international lenders. Unlike the Greeks, the Spanish realize that there is no easy way out. What the Spanish want is resolution to the crisis, as painful as the process may be. The Occupiers and the Greek protesters, in contrast, are unfocused and unrealistic. The Occupiers will disappear as winter forces them from their encampments; the Greeks face a longer winter of discontent as their economic remedy will be much colder and last much longer than ever imagined.

"You can get anything you want in life if you help others get what they want."

- George F. Lengvari, Sr.



SOCIETY



Misha Popoff

info@themetropolitain.ca

Misha Popoff is a freelance political writer with a degree in history. He can be heard on Kelowna's AM 1150 on Friday mornings between 9 and 10.

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Killing Kyoto... finally and painlessly

Prime Minister Harper had the guts to remove Canada from the Kyoto Accord almost the same way we got into it: with an order from his phone in the comfort of his office.

Never mind those big rooms down the hall full of elected representatives. Prime Minister Chrétien ratified the Kyoto Protocol at a brief ceremony in his office in 2002. He did not

consult scientists, economists or anyone in his Cabinet, nor was David Anderson - Canada's longest serving Environment Minister - consulted. Only Preston Manning and the Reform Party spoke out and were attacked as stooges for Big Oil.

Most Canadians remain blissfully unaware that there was never a vote on Kyoto in Parliament. I repeat, no vote.

They're also blissfully unaware that oil companies have all agreed to support this asinine treaty. After all, oil execs already support exorbitant taxes on fuel which amount to about half the cost we pay at the pump. So why would they be worried about a few more percentage points going to the government? Do you remember any oil companies complaining when Gordon Campbell gave BC the first carbon tax in North America?

President Clinton had attempted a similar stunt in 1997 but, unlike those wily Canadians Chrétien and Campbell, he was overruled by his own Democratic allies in the Senate who united with Republicans to kill Kyoto unanimously. Unanimously! That's the benefit of having checks and balances. In absence of those checks and balances, Harper reversed what Chrétien singlehandedly saddled us with.

Interestingly, Chrétien is a close friend of the man who started all this socialist-environmental madness, Maurice Strong, a Canadian who runs some sort of bureaucratic office through the United Nations that no one comprehends, and has tried for years to get everyone in developed countries to feel guilty for our standard of living despite being a multi-millionaire. Finally, he united the new breed of professional environmentalists with old-guard socialists left over after the collapse of Communism, and it was all downhill from there.

You see, spreading free enterprise and democracy can be so difficult these days what with all the accusations of racism from social relativists. So, Strong and Co. decided to just try to make everyone equal rather than doing anything to actually improve quality of life in the Third World, thereby compromising the leading free enterprise industrial economies.

Don't believe me? Here are Strong's words from the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro which laid the groundwork for the Kyoto Protocol of 1997: "What if a small group of world leaders were to conclude that the principal risk to the Earth comes from the actions of rich countries? ... So, in order to save the planet, the group decides: Isn't the only hope for the planet that the industrialized civilizations collapse? Isn't it our responsibility to



bring that about?"

And so it was decided that Western economies would be undermined through cap-and-trade schemes and carbon taxation, and gullible Liberals like Chrétien and Campbell played along.

Never mind that all the CO2 trapped in fossil fuels came from the earth's atmosphere which once held ten times more CO2. Never mind that any farmer can tell you that increasing CO2 levels boosts agricultural yields, and that scientists estimate 15 percent of the earth's population exists today thanks to rising CO2 in the last century. You're supposed to ignore all that.

You're also supposed to ignore the news that Michael Mann's much-touted "hockey-stick graph" - which multi-millionaire environmentalists like Al Gore claims shows that we're living in the warmest period ever - was shown back in 2005 to produce its hockey-stick shape even if random data were used. Yeah... never mind the facts. Strong's anti-Western legacy lives on here in Canada thanks to Chrétien's anti-democratic actions nine years ago.

Billions of dollars in government subsidies have been wasted trying to comply with Kyoto. Harper stopped this madness dead in its tracks. A singularly important move to help Canada's prosperity.

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David Jones, co-author of *Uneasy Neighbo(u)rs: Canada, the USA and the Dynamics of State, Industry and Culture*, is a former U.S. diplomat who served in Ottawa. He now lives in Arlington, Virginia."

David T. Jones
info@themetropolitain.ca



Anguish Over Aboriginals—How Canadian

One of the enduring elements of Canadian psychic angst is the status of its First Nations.

Over the years, indeed over the decades, an observer can recall the viewing-with-alarm and/or dismay that affect Canadians when one or another instance of ghetto in the woods associated with a First Nation reserve comes to light. Long-term observers have ricocheted from

- James Bay child gasoline sniffers to;
- Kashechewan water purification;
- to
- Attawapiskat shanty housing.

Or pathetic other disasters of similar ilk in roughly a quarter of the reserves.

For each illustration of disaster, there have been pitiful descriptions of drugged, alcoholic, abused, neglected, hungry, cold, and generally miserable people. The largest single topic in the annual USG human rights report on Canada is aboriginal issues examining inter alia reserve conditions.

But virtually never is there intimation that these people have any responsibility for their circumstances.

Oh, how Canadians love to feel guilty (which is a back-handed way of feeling superior). From the weeping and lamentation, one could believe that Canadians had brutally enslaved aboriginals after dragging them from their native habitations that were overflowing with milk and honey where the deer and the

antelope play.

No amount of money seems to resolve the problem, either specific or general. In the most recent case, Attawapiskat reportedly received \$90 million over the past five years. And band administrators secured a very substantial portion of that largess. The primal scream from any rational observer should be "waste, fraud, incompetence." But these comments are delivered sotto voce at most; aboriginal leadership's most practiced responses are insisting on "national" independence and claiming that any criticism or requirement for fiscal oversight is "blaming the victim" and intruding on tribal/band sovereignty.

Canada's role apparently is to shut up and pay—more each year—without critical comment.

In truth, the social cultural circumstances appear irresolvable. Aboriginals reportedly desire to live on their traditional land—and have other Canadians arrange for them to live there in comfort regardless of cost. The reality is that band members with any "get up and go" initiative have got up and gone. They have made their way in the world and manage the 21st century without regrets.

There are answers. One traditional advancement mechanism for a disadvantaged group, e.g., immigrants, is education. How to deliver this benefit becomes the key. Finding skilled teachers willing to commit years to life in middle-of-

nowhere reserves is technically possible but unrealistic. But gathering young aboriginals into cohesive education facilities has the stench of "residential schools." Could sophisticated IT and modern transportation to connect with families on reserves alleviate deracination among a new

generation of such students? No one will ever know.

maintain extended, complex water systems?

But band leadership, fully appreciating the vulnerability of their incompetent management to actuarial review, furiously rejects external intervention. Thus in a "shoot the messenger" approach, the

gent, energetic, and entrepreneurial residents, quickly decamped for more congenial accommodations. Those remaining are the hard core often characterized by poverty, crime, drug abuse, alcoholism, educational failure, and broken families with single mothers attempting to raise

No amount of money seems to resolve the problem, either specific or general. In the most recent case, Attawapiskat reportedly received \$90 million over the past five years.

Attawapiskat leader expels the third party manager and aboriginal leaders appeal to the United Nations for a "special rapporteur" to review the government's response. Ah yes, the UN has such a reputation for fiscal probity and attention to human rights.

Indeed, many Canadian reserves have the conditions long observed in U.S. inner city ghettos: with the end of legal segregation, the most intelli-

multiple children. The sole advantage the United States has is that its "reserves" are not frozen over six months per year. But Canada is a wealthy country and can afford to reinforce failure. Aboriginal issues are a "third rail" akin to "two tier" medicine when considering comprehensive solutions. Ottawa will again attempt to resolve the problem by stuffing this cat with cream.

multiple children. The sole advantage the United States has is that its "reserves" are not frozen over six months per year. But Canada is a wealthy country and can afford to reinforce failure. Aboriginal issues are a "third rail" akin to "two tier" medicine when considering comprehensive solutions. Ottawa will again attempt to resolve the problem by stuffing this cat with cream.

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qui donc nous protège du gouvernement ?

...if the Government protects us from everything
else, then who protects us from the government?

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Pierre Brassard

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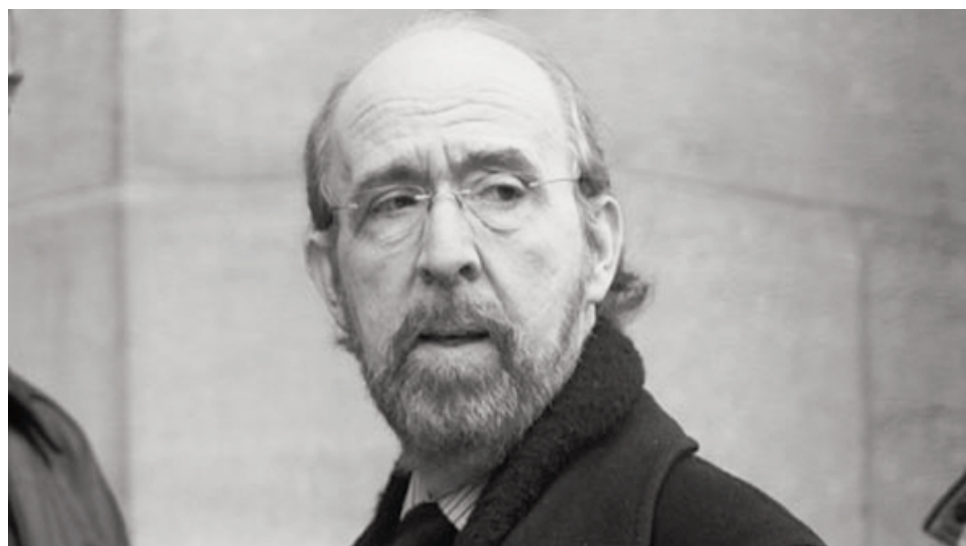
Partie 2 de 3

Gérald Larose et les systématisateurs rigoureux

Dans les années 70, à une époque qui n'est pas si lointaine, M. Larose participait à une petite mouvance de « catholique de gauche » comme prêtre rédemptoriste. Il était en effet membre du Réseau des Politisés Chrétiens et responsable d'une minuscule et pompeuse « commission de théologie ». Dans un article hautement significatif qui est une véritable pièce d'anthologie intitulé *Des chrétiens ont choisi le marxisme*, Larose exprimait des propos lourdement marxisants. Il constatait que beaucoup de chrétiens, dont lui-même, sont attirés par l'analyse marxiste. À cette époque, il disait :

« (...) le Réseau des Politisés Chrétiens fait porter le modeste poids de son intervention sur l'aspect religieux du champ précis de la culture et de l'idéologie. Bien que très spécifique, ce type d'intervention contribue au développement de la lutte des classes » (Vie Ouvrière, Les groupes marxistes du Québec, Des chrétiens ont choisi le marxisme, Gérald Larose, Vol. XXVI, no 4, avril 1976, p.227-228).

Relisons par la suite avec attention la «



bonne parole » empreinte de romantisme révolutionnaire du Père Larose (en voie de détroquer après 1976) discours sur les vertus politiques de l'idéologie marxiste pour en comprendre finement les paramètres de son cheminement :

« Notre prise de conscience, dans son processus, n'a rien d'original par rapport à la

prise de conscience des autres camarades. C'est le terrain qui la force et la nourrit. Déceptions en démythifications (comme chrétiens, nous avons un lourd héritage d'idéalisme, de spontanéisme et d'activisme), nous avons fini par soupçonner comment toute la mécanique sociale (l'organisation du travail, les lois et leur application, les appareils

d'état, la culture et ses véhicules, etc.) est solidement organisée pour défendre et promouvoir les intérêts d'une petite mais extrêmement puissante classe, la bourgeoisie capitaliste, et comment, à notre insu, nous en étions un élément reproducteur. C'est à ce moment-là que nous avons pris du recul pour sérieusement voir clair et nous donner une formation politique. Nous l'avons puisée à l'histoire des peuples et des masses dont les acquis sont des enseignements que nous ne pouvons pas ne pas retenir et dont Marx, Lénine, et Mao Tse Toung ont été avec d'autres des systématisateurs rigoureux très importants. C'est comme militants que nous nous sommes appropriés (et que nous nous approprions toujours en suivant le développement des contradictions) ces acquis théoriques et pratiques d'analyse et d'organisation. Et c'est à ce titre que nous nous retrouvons avec tous les camarades dans le corps-à-corps de la lutte des classes » (Vie Ouvrière..., p.229).

Ce texte en dit beaucoup. Premièrement, il nous permet de mieux connaître cette époque où les esprits se radicalisaient à gauche jusqu'à l'extrême gauche. Deuxièmement, il nous offre la possibilité de visiter historiquement un homme qui s'est arraché de son ministère sacerdotal pour des raisons idéologiques. Ce qu'il dira d'ailleurs beaucoup plus tard en entrevue à la journaliste Nathalie Petrowski (voir Nathalie Petrowski rencontre Gérald Larose, Reconnaissance de dettes, La Presse, lundi 11 janvier 1999, p.A1). Troisièmement, Gérald Larose, soit par christianisme compassionnel ou par socialisme sentimental (les deux ensembles seraient plus justes) nous permet de mieux saisir son parcours qui se situe dans une orientation faite non pas de rupture brutale mais d'un changement de paradigme qui passe d'un radicalisme religieux de type « prêtre ouvrier » à un radicalisme séculier où persévère, là encore, un vieux fond gauchiste.

On ne doit pas (et ce n'est pas l'objet de ce texte) réduire l'ex-prêtre et ex-chef syndical à ces quelques propos. Mais il est tout à fait judicieux et surtout nécessaire de regarder les multiples facettes d'un homme qui a marqué son époque et sa génération. Ne nous privons donc pas de précieux compléments d'informations. Abordons maintenant un autre côté moins reluisant qui n'est pas du tout insignifiant.

Gérald Larose nous étonne

Nous sommes dans un épisode difficile mais nécessaire du sujet. Dans ce mémomagazine de gauche évoqué plus haut (Vie Ouvrière d'avril 1976), Gérald Larose nous étonne. Sa pratique de l'injonction imprécatoire parle par elle-même. Il exprime ouvertement, et ce, sans gêne comme prêtre, le mythe des Juifs comme peuple

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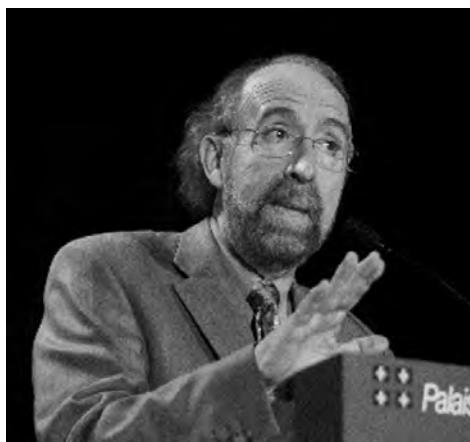
déicide, responsable de la mort du Christ. Une déclaration absolument stupéfiante. En 1976, il affirmait :

« (...) nous avons effectué un retour aux sources pour saisir la réalité de Jésus-Christ dans sa composante socialo-historique qui nous rappelle que Jésus de Nazareth (qui guérissait les corps, les coeurs et les esprits) a été assassiné par ceux-là même de la classe dominante de Jérusalem qui possédaient le Temple à la fois Tour de la Bourse, parlement, université et église de l'époque; et qu'il est ressuscité (et ressuscitant toujours) pour ceux avec qui il s'était solidarisé, pour ceux qu'il avait guéris et qu'il guérissait toujours. Cette réalité s'est avérée une « Bonne Nouvelle » pour les pauvres et une « Mauvaise Nouvelle » pour les riches » (Vie Ouvrière..., p.230).

Ne soyons pas dupes de ce propos. C'est là effectivement une reprise (banale) de l'accusation théologique de déicide visant les Juifs. Ne savait-il pas à l'époque que le document du Concile Vatican II de 1965 NOSTRA AETATE (Déclaration sur les relations de l'Église avec les religions non chrétiennes) était promulgué depuis déjà plus de 10 ans ? Je cite une partie importante du document de 1965:

(...) les Juifs ne doivent pas, pour autant, être présentés comme réprouvés par Dieu ni maudits, comme si cela découlait de la Sainte Écriture. (...) En outre, l'Église, qui réprouve toutes les persécutions contre tous les hommes, quels qu'ils soient, ne pouvant oublier le patrimoine qu'elle a en commun avec les Juifs, et poussée, non pas par des motifs politiques, mais par la charité religieuse de l'Évangile, déplore les haines, les persécutions et les manifestations d'antisémitisme, qui, quels que soient leur époque et leurs auteurs, ont été dirigées contre les Juifs.»

Nous sommes loin de « l'enseignement de l'estime » de Vatican II, plus respectueux du



Adrien Arcand et Gérald Larose sont deux personnages aux antipodes sur le plan intellectuel et idéologique. Mais remarquons qu'ils abordent –chacun à sa façon– la thématique déicide avec un ton et des référents qui varient sur le plan lexical mais laissent tout de même perdurer cette commune.

judéisme et du peuple juif. Je précise que ce texte a été écrit non pas dans les années 30, mais dans un magazine de gauche (Vie Ouvrière), à la veille de la prise du pouvoir du Parti Québécois en 1976.

Dans ce texte du milieu des années 70, les écrits extrêmes permettent d'observer plusieurs positionnements. D'abord, l'affirmation d'une théologie dite « dissidente » dans l'Église catholique du Québec qui entrecroise un vieux fond d'antijudaïsme chrétien primaire larvé qui a historiquement nourri la haine des Juifs. Ensuite, il est démontré que nombre de « catholiques de gauche » avaient assez bien intériorisé le document NOSTRA AETATE de 1965. Mais cela ne semble pas avoir été le cas en 1976 pour Larose. Grâce à la lecture de ce texte, nous apercevons une insidieuse forme théologique « de gauche » qui a décidément eu de beaux jours devant lui. Ce qui est évocateur d'une dérive

intellectuelle est à méditer. On le voit bien, l'antijudaïsme chrétien qui puise encore à cette époque dans une dynamique religieuse fallacieuse et haineuse s'agence sans fausse modestie à une rhétorique pro-Mao Tsé Toung (le « systématiser rigoureux ») qui ne fait pas bon ménage. Peut-on y voir une forme de synthèse inédite qui restera dans les annales historiques ?

N'oublions pas cette vieille croyance qui a tant nourri la haine des Juifs dans nombre de pays sous influence chrétienne. Selon l'historien des idées Pierre-André Taguieff, cette

matrice d'origine « puise ses arguments beaucoup moins dans la constatation de faits précis, ou même dans les affirmations plus ou moins fondées de la malveillance populaire, que dans une certaine exégèse des écrits bibliques interprétés, en fonction de la mort du Christ, comme un long réquisitoire contre le peuple élu (...) » (Pierre-André Taguieff, La judéophobie des Modernes, Des Lumières au Jihad mondial, Odile Jacob, Paris, 2008, p. 259).

Revenons sur ce point bien précis des Juifs comme responsables de la mort du Christ. Le militant d'extrême droite Adrien Arcand (1899-1967), bien connu historiquement au Canada pour ses délirantes diatribes antijuives et pour sa carrière publique en marge des courants politiques officiels, aborde aussi cette thématique déicide. Son texte de juillet 1965 (à la veille de la fermeture du Concile Vatican II) nous en dit long. Il s'énonce sous un jargon

hautement conspirationniste qui lui est propre:

« On le voit plus que jamais de nos jours, à l'occasion du Concile Œcuménique Vatican II, convoqué pour le rajeunissement de l'Église et le rapprochement en une même famille de tous les baptisés. Les Juifs n'ont pas plus affaire dans ce concile, eux qui réprouvent le baptême, que des baptisés peuvent avoir affaire dans la franc-maçonnerie exclusivement juive des B'nai B'rith (Enfants de l'Alliance). Mais il faut que les Juifs y soient, qu'ils y exercent leur influence, qu'on parle d'eux, voire que l'on défigure le Nouveau Testament (qu'ils repoussent) afin de leur faire plaisir. Ils disent que les Évangiles sont la source de « l'antisémitisme » en Occident, cause de haine antijuive, et quoi encore ! Et ils demandent « d'être absous du crime de déicide », bien que les Évangiles les Actes des Apôtres, les Épîtres et l'Apocalypse soient formels sur la responsabilité des Juifs dans la condamnation, la torture et l'exécution de Jésus, que le gouverneur romain Ponce-Pilate tenta vainement, à plusieurs reprises, de sauver » (Adrien Arcand, À bas la haine !, Les Éditions La Vérité, juillet 1965, p.41).

Pensons à haute voix et essayons d'éviter le tabou pour bien comprendre. Adrien Arcand et Gérald Larose sont deux personnages aux antipodes sur le plan intellectuel et idéologique. Mais remarquons qu'ils abordent –chacun à sa façon– la thématique déicide avec un ton et des référents qui varient sur le plan lexical mais laissent tout de même perdurer cette commune veine déicide (tueur du Christ). Les textes parlent d'eux-mêmes. Le discours de M. Larose de 1976 diffère du langage ampoulé marxisant qui était très répandu dans les années 70, alors que celui d'Arcand en juillet 1965 reste inflexible et n'intériorise pas non plus le document NOSTRA AETATE.



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Charles Dickens: The man who gave us Christmas

On the Bicentenary of his birth, his stage debut in Montreal is recalled

In the spring of 1842 Charles Dickens took a steamboat from Kingston, Ont. and sailed down the St. Lawrence into Montreal with his wife, Catherine, and found the town “full of life and bustle.” Dickens was 30 and had already written six books, including *Oliver Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby*. No other novelist has had such a spectacular success. Two hundred years after he was born in 1812, Dickens remains as immortal as Shakespeare. It is probably fair to say more people know of *Oliver Twist*, the artful dodger, Sydney Carton, Miss Havisham, Micawber, Scrooge and Tiny Tim from the endless television mini-series, movies and Broadway musicals based on his novels than they do from reading his books.

Dickens didn't invent Christmas, but with a *Christmas Carol* he raised it as a holiday in the public consciousness. “He put out a Christmas book every year for five years,” said Goldie Morgentaler, an associate English professor at the University of Lethbridge and Vice-President of the Dickens Society. ““He was a great writer, he wasn't a very nice man, but he was a great writer.” He's never gone out of print. He is such a popular figure. He is the first novelist to write about children in books intended for an adult audience.”

His was not exactly a household name in Lower Canada when he arrived in Montreal in 1842, but he had a huge following in the United States. But because of the absence of a copyright law in America his works were being pirated and he couldn't collect royalties. Dickens made the trip to lobby for his fair share of the sales receipts.

Dickens extended his American tour to come to Montreal for 19 days at the invitation of the Earl of Musgrave, then an officer in the Scots Fusilier Guards, whom he met on the transatlantic crossing. The Earl, who would later serve as Nova Scotia's Governor-General, persuaded Dickens to direct three plays for the amusement of the British regimental officers and their wives in the local garrison. It didn't take much to persuade him to make his stage debut as an actor in Montreal as well. As a stagestruck

clerk in England Dickens went to the theatre every night for three years and longed to be an actor.

Montreal, when he arrived was a pretty tense and anxious place with the memories of the 1837 rebellion still fresh, in everyone's mind, especially the burning alive by the British of French Canadian civilians in Ste. Eustache, and the hangings of the rebels in 1839. Dickens's found the accommodation at Rasco's Hotel on St. Paul St. deplorable, one of the worst hotels he had ever encountered. “The Inns are usually bad in Canada because the custom of boarding at hotels is not so general here as in the States,” he complained, “And the British officers, who form a large portion of the society live chiefly at the regimental messes.” Dickens left his wife at the hotel and spent much of his time in Sorel with Sir Richard Downes Jackson, the chief military administrator. Fearing a U.S. invasion, Jackson was building up the troop strength of the British garrison, of whom there were about 12,000 that spring. In her biography, one of two new books timed for the Dickens bicentenary in February, Claire Tomalin tells us Dickens threw himself enthusiastically into stage managing, acting and directing. His choice of material in Lower Canada was limited, and scripts were hard to find, but he decided upon three farces: *A Roland For an Oliver*, by John Morton, *Past Two O'Clock in The Morning*, a French farce in translation, and John Poole's *Deaf As a Post*. For his role as Alfred Hyflyer in the first play he ordered a comic wig from New York, “light flaxen with a half whisker down the cheek.” He described his costume in a letter to Henry Austin, a friend back in England. “Over this I mean to wear two night caps, one with a tassel and one of flannel, a flannel wrapping, drab tights, and slippers.” The shows were staged, and went off without a hitch. Some officers who saw the plays claim they didn't recognize Dickens at all, he was made up and acted so well. Catherine acted her part” devilishly well,” he wrote, and he himself was pleased with the effort, “I really do believe I was very funny,” he said later. Unlike the United States, which, for the most part he didn't like, he wrote that “Canada has held



and will retain a foremost place in my remembrance. ...nothing of flush or fever in its system but health and vigour throbbing in its steady pulse.

It is full of hope and promise. To me – who had been accustomed to think of it as something left behind in the strides of advancing society, as

something neglected and forgotten, slumbering and wasting in its sleep – the demand for labour and the rates of wages; the bust quays of Montreal, the vessels taking in their cargos and discharging them; the amount of shipping in the different ports; the commerce, the roads and public works, all made to last, the respectability and character of the public journals, and the amount of rational comfort and happiness which honest industry may earn, were very great surprises.”

In his new biography, *Becoming Dickens, The Invention of a Novelist*, Robert Douglas Fairhurst reveals for the first time Dickens. Meeting Fyodor Dostoyevsky in 1862, Dickens told the Russian writer that “all the good simple people in his novels are what he wanted to have been, and his villains were what he found in himself, his cruelty, his attacks of causless enmity towards those who were helpless and looked to him for comfort, his shrinking from those whom he ought to have loved.. there were two people in me,” he told Dostoyevsky, “One who feels as he ought to feel, and one who feels the opposite. From the one who feels the opposite I make my evil characters, from the one feels as a man ought to feel, I try to live my life.”



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“Addio Pizzo” wine

You may have had organic wine. You may have had biodynamic wine. You may have had wine produced by sustainable agricultural methods. But have you had “pizzo” free wine? “Pizzo” in Italian means protection money paid to you know who. Fed up after assassinations and murders of members of the judiciary leading investigations into organized crime, a spontaneous movement erupted in 2004 in Palermo bearing the slogan “Addio Pizzo” meaning good-bye to protection money and let’s support those in the economy that are Pizzo free. Their slogan reads, “Un Intero Popolo Che Paga Il Pizzo É Un Popolo Senza Dignità” translated as such, “A Whole People Who Pays the Pizzo is a People Without Dignity”.

The Addio Pizzo group, shopkeepers and business owners, seemed to draw its inspiration from Libero Grassi who was gunned down in August 29, 1991 for speaking out against the Sicilian mob’s extortion. Two magistrates, Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, who were lead prosecutors were also murdered by carbombs in 1992. As the Occupy movement in North America seems

a spontaneous reaction to perceived corporate greed and corruption, Addio Pizzo is a reaction to violence, murder and extortion. The Addio Pizzo movement seeks to guide shopping habits to favour those who declare they are anti protection money. Who the organizers are is not revealed on their website (www.addiopizzo.org <<http://www.addiopizzo.org/>>) perhaps for obvious reasons. The wines reviewed here were first sampled at an Italian Trade Commission tasting in October in

Toronto and bore the Addio Pizzo sticker.

This Nero D’Avola is almost garnet in colour and of medium intensity. Dusky and rough on the nose. Smells like it’s ready for a fight. But when you get to know it, it’s not aggressive or mean just a bit burly with raw black cherry predominating along with earth and minerality. The rough black cherry just wants to continually assert itself and it’s very pure and uncontrived like hair blowing in the wind. Thick and solid on the palate like a



bulldozer smoothing out a truckload of cherry and chocolate. One moment you are thinking a short finish then a swirl of cherry and blackberry hits the palate in strange circular patterns. It does not look like a full bodied wine nor initially does it taste like one until it kicks in and goes full throttle without big tannins. The wine begs for pasta with loads of garlic, sausage and rapini. The raw element in this wine further begs that the wine be decanted to tame it a bit. (Valdibella 2009 Kerasos Nero D’Avola, IGT, COOP. Agr Valdibella Sicily, Italy). A great wine evolves in a glass and over the short time it is being consumed. This wine becomes a little charmer as it opens up but never losing its underlying power. Not currently available in the SAQ on a single bottle basis but be patient as soon (March 2012) you can buy this in a 6 bottle case and from:

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The white Munir Cataratto has a

nice golden glow to it. The nose is full of melon, spice, melon, humidity and persimmons. It’s creamy and luscious on the palate with a big mouth feel leaving a persistent spice, Abate pear and guava coating. The acids are refreshing not ripping. Medium finish with some weight. It lacks complexity but causes you to think carefully about its aromas and taste. If you have never had wine made from Cataratto here is a good place to start. It has a remarkable similarity with Aleksander Estates Pinot Grigio from Lake Erie North Shore in Ontario especially with its humidity component on the aroma. Escape your international white grape slavery and make the move to Cataratto a grape rarely seen outside of Sicily! Drink now. (Valdibella 2010 Munir Cataratto Bianco, IGT, COOP. Agr Valdibella, Sicily, Italy). Once again see the review above for availability and the 6 minimum bottle requirement.

Valdibella produces not only ICEA certified wines but organic almonds and olives and is located in the Camporeale region in Western Sicily. 11 wines are produced and only two are available in Ontario but Syl-Vins promises more will be available in Québec very soon.

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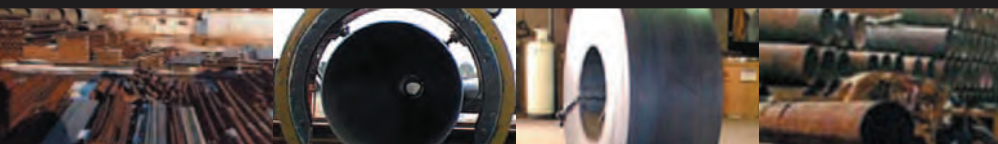
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God of Carnage

God of Carnage, at the Centaur until December 4th, (and probably longer) is a clever and brutally funny farce that's the hottest ticket in town. A perfect ensemble cast under Roy Surette's disciplined and brilliant direction unleashes 90 minutes of domestic mayhem on an unsuspecting audience. The play explores that razor thin line between civility and savagery, love and hate. What we have here is reminiscent of *Who is Afraid of Virginia Woolf* without Albee's bite. Playwright Yasmina Reza cuts to the bone but somehow manages to leave you laughing at the lacerations. Two apparently happily married couples, Michael and Veronica Novak (Ellen David and Mark Camacho) and Alan and Annette "Woof-Woof" Raleigh, (Marcel Jeannin and Janine Theriault) meet to sort out a playground scrap involving their respective sons. The Novak boy has had two of his teeth knocked out in a scuffle with the Raleigh boy. Naturally, two sets of parents get together to settle the damages.

A semantic misunderstanding over whether the Raleigh boy was "armed" with a stick, escalates into pained frustration. Alan cheerfully admits his son is a savage and is prepared to pay for aggrieved kids new front teeth and get on with life. But the Novak's seem determined to extract a pound of emotional flesh before they are satisfied. As the polite small talk is lubricated with a social drink, the fissures and fault lines in their respective marriages are exposed. Veronica Novak is a radical chic writer who believes in the soothing power of culture. She's publishing a book on Darfur; Her husband is a neanderthal. Ellen David is superb as Veronica. She is insufferably overbearing and earnest, one of those earnest liberals who pay lip service but little else to their beliefs. Mark Camacho seizes the stage like a thick skinned rhinoceros, the kind of guy who



delights in killing pet hamsters, and doesn't let go.

Everything comes to a head when Annette cracks under pressure in a "brutal and catastrophic spray of vomit." The unexpected gastric explosion has the audience roaring with laughter in sheer surprise and disgust. After that it's a no-holds barred, knock down drag out fight. Janine Theriault is ideal as Annette the repressed ice princess; Marcel Jeannin is

perfect as her vacuous husband, a successful corporate lawyer who loves his cell phone more than his wife. No one on stage takes a false step, even when Jeannin breaks into a showstopping pirouette of child-like exasperation. You almost expect him to hold his breath and turn blue. By the end of the evening the stage has been soiled not only with vomit, but with bits of clafouti, shreds of Cuban cigars and tulips ripped from the vase and scattered to the wind. Michael

Eagan has designed an elegantly understated upper crust room, - one of those Architectural Digest libraries where the books are meant to be looked at rather than read - that withstands all the damage. Married couples will undoubtedly find more meaning in the play than those who aren't. Everyone, however, will have a great time in the realization, as Woody Harrelson once put it, that "Grown ups are just children with layers on."

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